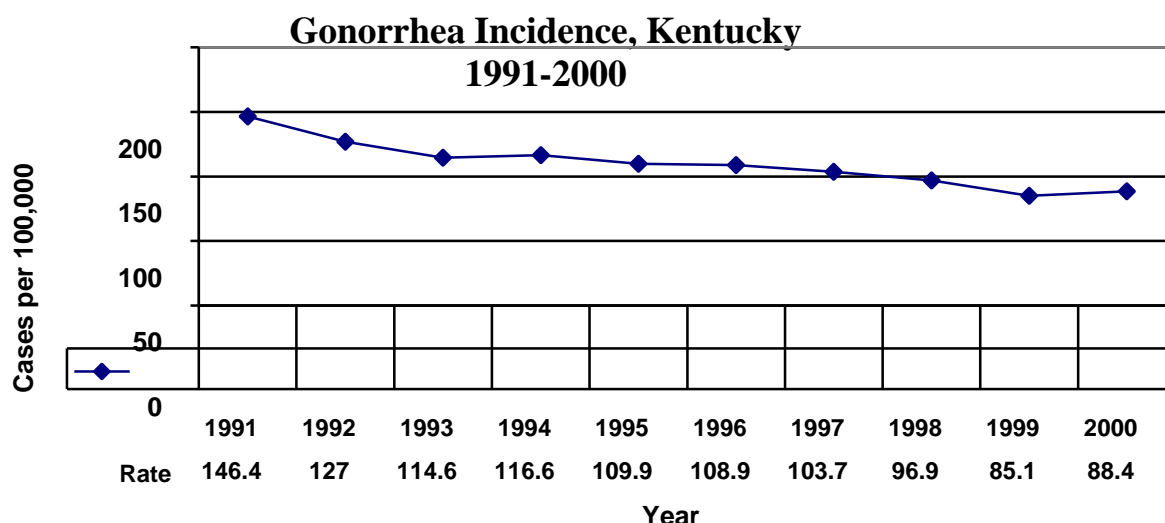


GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease (STD) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In males, it is usually characterized by a purulent urethral discharge and dysuria. In females, initially there is a urethritis or cervicitis often so mild it may pass unnoticed. Depending upon sexual practices, pharyngeal and anorectal infections can occur. In males, the urethral infection is usually self-limiting; however, it may progress to epididymitis, and in rare cases, it can disseminate into an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, endocarditis, and meningitis. Twenty percent of women infected with gonorrhea may progress to uterine infection, which may lead to endometritis or salpingitis (PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and the subsequent risk of infertility.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of typical Gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci (presumptive *N. gonorrhoeae*) from clinical specimen, **OR**
- Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid, **OR**
- Observation of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear from a man.



The rate increased slightly, for the first time in six years

Incidence in Kentucky 2000

Number of Cases 3502
Rate per 100,000 88.4

Rate by Gender (per 100,000)

Female 84.7
 Male 91.1

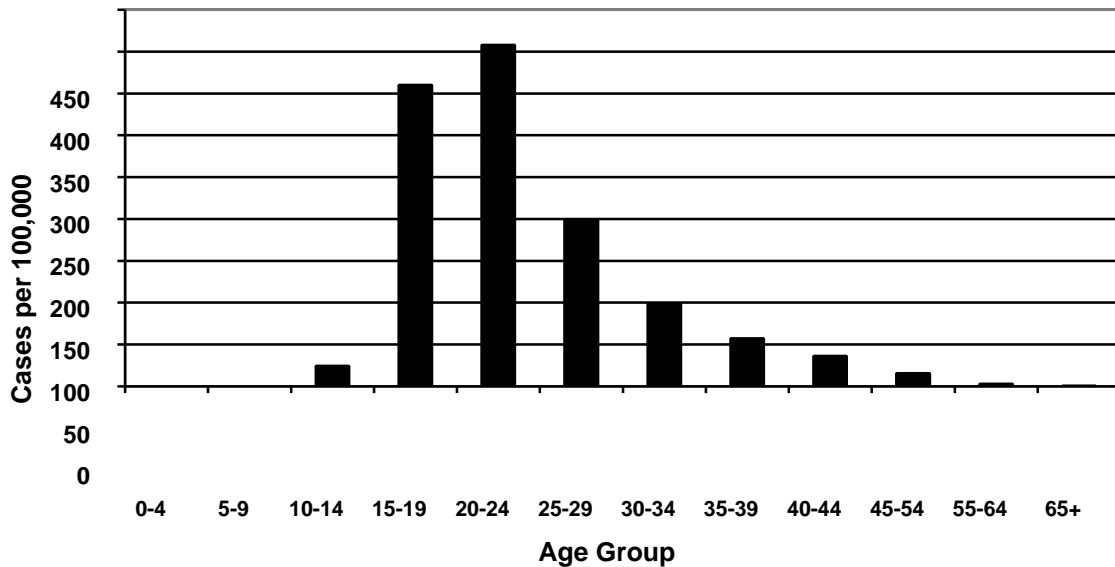
Rate by Race (per 100,000)*

Black 626.0
 Hispanics 55.0
 Asian 53.9
 White 21.0
 American Indian 11.6

Race was not specified on 24% of the reports.

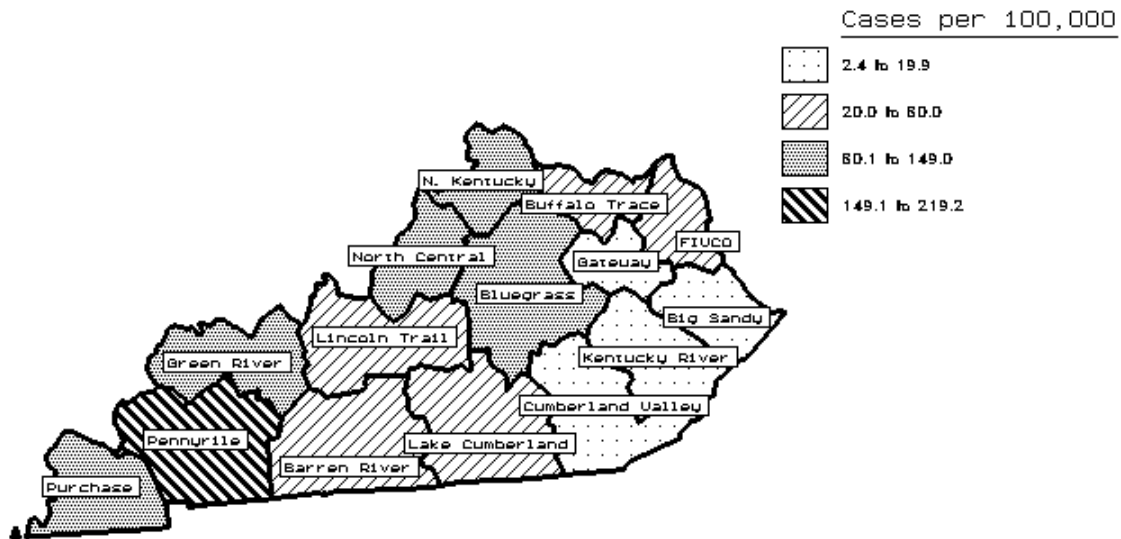
*The 2000 census figures were used for the rate calculation by race.

Gonorrhea, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky 2000



The 20-24 year age group reported the highest number of cases, 407.8 per 100,000 followed by the 15-19 year age group, 360.3 cases per 100,000. This is a slight increase from 1999 rates for these two age groups.

Gonorrhea by District, Kentucky 2000



The highest reported incidence occurred in the Pennyrile District (219.2 cases per 100,000), followed by the North Central District (148.1 cases per 100,000).

District	Annual Incidence Rate
Purchase	100.5
Pennyrile	219.2
Green River	78.2
Barren River	57.7
Lincoln Trail	47.3
North Central	148.1
Northern Kentucky	74.5
Buffalo Trace	21.8
Gateway	16.2
Fivco	21.5
Big Sandy	13.3
Kentucky River	2.4
Cumberland Valley	10.6
Lake Cumberland	26.8
Bluegrass	111.8